

Missouri Assessment Program
Spring 2006

Communication Arts

Released Items

Grade 11

Acknowledgments: CTB/McGraw-Hill LLC is indebted to the following for permission to use material in this book.

“Driving the Big Road” by Valerie Fraser from *Southern Living* Magazine’s April 2002 issue, copyright © 2002 by Southern Living. Reprinted with permission.

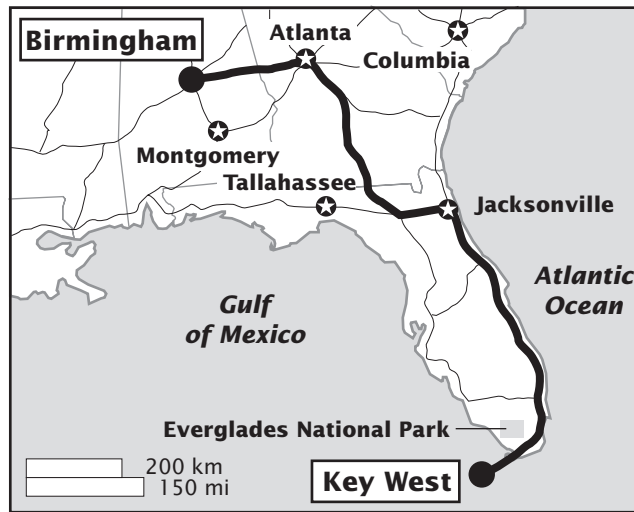
The McGraw-Hill Companies



Developed and published under contract with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by CTB/McGraw-Hill LLC, a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 20 Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, California 93940-5703. Copyright © 2006 by Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. All rights reserved. Only Missouri State educators and citizens may copy and/or download and print the document, located online at <http://www.dese.state.mo.us>. Any other use or reproduction of this document, in whole or in part, requires the written permission of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Directions

This passage is about a grandmother and granddaughter taking a road trip. Read the passage. Then answer Numbers 1 through 6.



Driving the Big Road by Valerie Fraser

Grannie has a new pair of Keds. That can only mean one thing: a road trip.

Whenever we travel together, Grannie likes to write the address of our hotel on a tennis shoe so she can find her way back if we get separated (which never happens unless she intentionally gives me the slip).

We began our annual trips two years ago, the week of her 85th birthday. This might be a good time to mention that Grannie has a great figure, long hair that mysteriously remains its

original ebony color, and a penchant¹ for flashy jewelry. In my 39 years, I have occasionally confided to friends that I suspect that she is better looking than I.

Neither of us looked our best the day she roped me into our first trip—we were too terrified. Grannie was lying on a gurney, preparing for major cancer surgery. Before they could wheel her away, she grabbed my arm and said, “If I live, I want a road trip!” A few months later, we were pulling out of

¹penchant: strong liking

Go On ►

Birmingham before sunrise, bound for Key West.

Grannie doesn't fly, not so much because she's afraid, but because her favorite part of any trip is time on "the big road." She grew up crisscrossing the South with her family, and the road is forever in her blood. She chose Key West for one reason: It involved the longest drive she could con me into.

A free spirit who navigates by the sun, Grannie gave little thought to hopping in the car and embarking on a weeklong adventure. However, I spent weeks planning our budget, studying maps, and getting the car serviced. I guess it took both Grannie's chutzpah² and my strategizing to get us to the island. But get there we did.

There's really no way to describe our sojourn³ in paradise. A million priceless moments are forever etched on my memory like snapshots in a shoebox I can look at whenever I need a little lift.

Close my eyes and I can see the two of us at Mallory Square, standing arm-in-arm at the water's edge, silhouetted against a brilliant sunset. Here we are laughing hysterically on the caboose of the Conch Tour Train. There's Grannie taking the wheel of a

pirate ship, explaining to the captain that it is, after all, her birthday. Oh, and here we are on the bow of the glass-bottomed boat, leaning out over the water to mimic that famous scene from *Titanic* as we fly across a sea of emerald glass.

My favorite picture is a quiet one: Grannie and me lounging in a courtyard lush with tropical trees and flowers. The afternoon faded into evening as I asked her about her life. She told me of a girl in long braids, gleefully catching frogs; of a young woman marrying and leaving home; of a working mother riding the bus to work every day and giving her bottle of New Year's champagne to a group of soldiers she sat next to one evening during World War II. Then she told me of a grandmother who has much to teach, much to share, and much still to do.

When we returned to the big road, Grannie grinned and said: "You know, I shouldn't have done this—I've just stirred up the gypsy."⁴ I knew exactly what she meant. Maybe I, too, have a gypsy inside—at least I hope so.

⁴**gypsy:** a person who wanders

²**chutzpah:** utter nerve

³**sojourn:** temporary stay

1 Which of these phrases from the passage best illustrates Grannie’s personality?

- ☐ “. . . confided to friends that I suspect that she is better looking than I.”
- ☐ “. . . the day she roped me into our first trip—we were too terrified.”
- ☐ “. . . gave little thought to hopping in the car and embarking on a weeklong adventure.”
- ☐ “. . . a working mother riding the bus to work everyday.”

2 The narrator most likely included the paragraph that describes different things she and Grannie did on their trip to show

- ☐ how hard the narrator worked to keep Grannie happy
- ☐ that Grannie had more energy than the narrator herself
- ☐ how much the narrator and Grannie truly enjoyed themselves
- ☐ that Grannie and the narrator had similar interests and experiences

Go On ►

3

Write a word or a phrase that describes the author's tone of this passage. Explain why you chose this word or phrase using two details and/or examples from the passage in your explanation.

Word or Phrase: _____

Explanation: _____

4

When the narrator closes her eyes, she sees snapshots of her road trip with Grannie. What two things can the narrator learn from the snapshots and her memories with Grannie? Use information from the passage in your answer.

5

In the space below, create a graphic organizer that shows two differences in the narrator's and Grannie's approach to travel and preparation for their road trip. Be sure to label your graphic organizer.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Go On ►

Session 1 | Page 7

Imagine you are the granddaughter. Write a letter to one of your cousins in which you try to convince him or her to accompany you and Grannie on the next road trip. Use the **two** details and/or examples from the passage that would be most convincing in your letter.

[illegible]

Page 8 | Session 1

WRITING

Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

Writing Prompt

In “Driving the Big Road,” Grannie is a unique individual. Write a paper in which you persuade a friend either that individuality is a positive quality or that individuality is not a positive quality.

Go On ►

Session 2 | Page 3

REVISED COPY

Directions


Now you have time to revise your draft. Reread your draft and think about the Writer's Checklist below. Check every box that makes a true statement about your draft.

Writer's Checklist



- ☐ My paper has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- ☐ My paper includes effective use of paragraphing.
- ☐ My paper stays on the topic.
- ☐ My paper flows smoothly from one idea to another.
- ☐ My paper contains a strong controlling idea.
- ☐ My paper includes specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples.
- ☐ My paper uses precise and vivid language.
- ☐ My paper contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- ☐ My paper includes correct grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

For every box you did not check, make the necessary revisions on your draft before you write your revised copy on Pages 5 through 9.

[illegible]

Session 2 | Page 5

DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑

[illegible]

Please use ONLY a Number 2 pencil to write your revised copy.

REVISED COPY

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Go On ►

DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑

[illegible]

Please use ONLY a Number 2 pencil to write your revised copy.

REVISED COPY

Lined area for writing the revised copy.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

